Statement

Annual percentage variation in the WPI

Pulses	As on 10.2.07	As on 13.1.07	As on 16.12.06	As on 18.11.06
Gram	30.5	29.0	36.4	45.2
Tur	14.3	7.5	6.5	4.2
Moong	29.7	35.4	38.9	39.9
Masoor	6.4	2.9	3.9	-1.0
Urad	19.5	33.0	39.0	45.8

Futures trading in essential commodities

465. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that futures trading in essential commodities is contributing to the price rise of those commodities to certain extent; and

(b) if so, the details of future trading allowed in various essential commodities and the corresponding volume of future trading and increase of prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) The main reasons for the recent rise in prices of essential commodities are shortfall in domestic supplies relative to demand and hardening of international prices. In the context of discussion regarding whether and to what exent futures trading has contributed to price rise in agricultural commodities in recent times, the Government has decided to set up an Expert Committee to go into this question in detail.

(b) Does not arise.

Sugar production

466. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise details of sugar production since 1998-99 indicating estimation for the current season;